AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for forming a film by casting on a front surface of a moving substrate at least one polymer solution discharged from a casting die, said method comprising steps of:

heating said substrate with use of a heater disposed along a back surface of said substrate; and

condensing solvent vapor for recovery of a solvent evaporated from said film with a condensing device disposed so as to closely confront to said film on said substrate.

2. (original): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a wind speed near a surface of said film is from 0.01m/s to 0.5m/s.

3. (original): A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said substrate moves downwards at a casting position at which said flowing polymer solution contacts to said substrate.

4. (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein Tw is a surface temperature ($^{\circ}C$) of a confronting surface of said condensing device to said film, Ts is a temperature ($^{\circ}C$) of said film, and d is a distance (mm) from said condensing device to said film, and a temperature gradient Q satisfies following formulae (1) and (2):

$Q=(Ts-Tw)/d$ ·····(1)

$5<Q<100$ ·····(2).

5. (original): A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein a fluctuation range of said temperature gradient Q is at most 10% of said temperature gradient Q.

6. (original): A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein a fluctuation range of temperature on said confronting surface of said condensing device is at most $10\,°C$.

7. (original): A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein a fluctuation range of said distance d in widthwise direction of said substrate is at most 10% of an average of said distance d.

8. (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein co-casting of plural polymer solutions is made.

9. (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a sequential casting of plural polymer solutions is made.

10. (original): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a thickness of said film is from 10μm to 1000μm just after formation of said film on said substrate, and a relative speed of said substrate to said casting die is from 5m/min to 200m/min.

11. (original): A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said polymer contained in said polymer solution is at least one of cellulose acylate, polycarbonate, aramide resin, polysulfone, and polystyrene.

12. (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein a polymer solution contains cellulose acylate of at least 50 vol.% of polymer components, X is a ratio of substitution of acylate group at 6^{th} position of repeating unit in cellulose acylate, and Y is a ratio of substitution of said acylate group at other positions, and the following conditions are satisfied in said polymer solution:

$X>0.85$ and $2.70<(X+Y)<2.99$.

13. (original): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said film is an optical film.

14. (original): A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said optical film is used in a polarizing filter.

15. (original): A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said optical film is used as a protective film for a polarizing filter.

16. (original): A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said optical film is used for an optical functional film.

17. (original): A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said optical film is used in a displaying device.

18. (canceled).

19. (canceled).

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34. (canceled).

35. (previously presented): A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein after the heating and condensing steps, the method comprises peeling said film from said substrate and then drying said film.

36. (new): A method as in claim 1, wherein the film is an optical polymer film.

37. (new): A method as in claim 36, wherein the optical polymer film is for a polarizing filter.

38. (new): A method as in claim 36, wherein the optical polymer film is for an optical functional film.

39. (new): A method as in claim 36, wherein the optical polymer film is for a liquid crystal display.